

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 INT-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01  
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 OES-06 /041 W  
-----200914Z 110887 /11

O R 200827Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4891  
AMEMBASSY SUVA  
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 TOKYO 0925

CANBERRA PLEASE PASS USAID MISSION ENROUTE SOUTH PACIFIC

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EAID PFOR  
SUBJECT: GOJ MISSION TO SOUTH PACIFIC COUNTRIES

REF: (A) STATE 307359 (B) TOKYO 528 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. GOJ MISSION VISITED GILBERT ISLANDS, TONGA, WESTERN SAMOA AND FIJI TO DISCUSS WITH HOST GOVERNMENTS POSSIBLE AREAS FOR GOJ TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION. MISSION FOUND FISHING INDUSTRY MAIN FIELD FOR DEVELOPMENT AMID GENERALLY VERY MODEST ECONOMIC PROSPECTS. MODEST SCALE AND MULTILATERAL EMPHASIS U.S. AID WERE OCCASIONALLY MENTIONED BY HOST GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES. END SUMMARY.

2. KATSUMI SEZAKI, DIRECTOR, SECOND ECONOMIC COOPERATION (GRANT AID) DIVISION, FOREIGN MINISTRY, GAVE EMBOFF BRIEFING JANUARY 19 ON NOVEMBER 26-DECEMBER 26, 1976 OFFICIAL TRIP TO THE GILBERT ISLANDS, TONGA, WESTERN SAMOA AND FIJI. GOJ MISSION TOTALED TWELVE PERSONS, INCLUDING FIVE FISHERIES SPECIALISTS AND ONE AGRICULTURAL SPECIALIST. SEZAKI GAVE AS THE PURPOSE OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MISSION THE IDENTIFYING OF AREAS OF RECIPIENT COUNTRY INTEREST IN TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION.

3. SEZAKI SAID DURING AUGUST 1976 VISIT TO JAPAN, GILBERT ISLANDS CHIEF MINISTER MADE "BIG" REQUEST TECHNICAL COOPERATION TO PROMOTE INDUSTRY. JAPANESE RESPONDED FAVORABLY. PROSPECTS FOR INDUSTRY OTHER THAN FISHING PROVE NOT TO BE BRIGHT, HOWEVER. PHOSPHATE

MINES WHICH ACCOUNT FOR FOUR FIFTHS OF EXPORTS WILL BE VIRTUALLY EXHAUSTED BY 1978. AGRICULTURAL LAND IS SHORT AND VEGETABLES ARE IMPORTED FROM HAWAII. SEZAKI NOTED THAT GILBERT ISLANDS RECEIVE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM, AUSTRALIA, AND NEW ZEALAND BUT THAT THESE COUNTRIES DO NOT HAVE JAPAN'S SPECIAL INTEREST IN FISHERIES AND THAT THEIR AID HAS NOT TAKEN THE FORM OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN THIS FIELD.

4. ONE IMMEDIATE QUESTION FOR GILBERT ISLANDS FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT IS WHETHER LIVE BAIT FISH, NECESSARY FOR COMMERCIAL FISHING, ARE AVAILABLE IN SURROUNDING SEA. GOJ IS ALLOCATING FUNDS FROM FY 1977 BUDGET TO DISPATCH RESEARCH VESSEL, PERHAPS IN AUGUST OR SEPTEMBER 1977, FOR A PERIOD OF ONE MONTH OR MORE IN ORDER TO DETERMINE ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION, IF LIVE BAIT FISH ARE UNAVAILABLE, GOJ GRANT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF POOLS TO RAISE BAIT FISH IS LIKELY TO BE FORTHCOMING AFTER ISLANDS ACHIEVE FULL INDEPENDENCE FROM UK IN JUNE 1978 AND THEREBY BECOME ELIGIBLE FOR GOJ GRANT AID. UNDP ALREADY HAS PROVIDED SOME HELP WITH A PILOT AQUACULTURE PROJECT BUT SEZAKI EXPRESSED VIEW THAT SOMETHING ON LARGER SCALE IS REQUIRED.

5. SEZAKI REPORTED THAT AT TONGA, NEXT STOP, KING HAD RECEIVED HIM AND DURING CONVERSATION HAD INDICATED AN INTENTION OF VISITING PALAU DURING 1977. HIS MAJESTY EXPRESSED APPROVAL FOR SUPERPORT SCHEME THERE ALTHOUGH HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT PEOPLE IN PALAU (HOW MANY HE DID NOT MAKE CLEAR) OPPOSE IT. HIS MAJESTY ALSO NOTED THAT AID FOR CONSTRUCTION OF FISHING PORT AND EXPANSION OF AIRPORT HAS BEEN ARRANGED FROM UNSPECIFIED (BUT SPECIFICALLY NOT SOVIET) SOURCES. AIRPORT EXPANSION IMPORTANT IN KING'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VIEW BECAUSE PRESENT DIRECT AIR NAURU FLIGHT FROM JAPAN TO NAURU IS EXPECTED TO BE EXTENDED TO TONGA SOON. GIVING HOPE THAT LATTER WOULD RECEIVE SIGNIFICANT SHARE JAPANESE TOURIST TRADE. IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH TONGA OFFICIALS, GOJ REPS PROMISED DISPATCH LIVE BAIT FISH SPECIALIST AS EXPERT ADVISER TO TONGA GOVERNMENT, POSSIBLY WITHIN A FEW MONTHS.

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ACTION EA-09

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O R 200827Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4892

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6. IN WESTERN SAMOA, SEZAKI NOTED ESPECIALLY KEEN INTEREST IN DEVELOPMENT OF FISHING INDUSTRY. GOJ RESPONDED FAVORABLY WESTERN SAMOA REQUEST TO PROVIDE TRAINING VESSEL FOR SKIPJACK FISHING. FONMIN SECOND ECONOMIC COOPERATION DIVISION BUDGET IS TO INCLUDE ABOUT DOLS 700,000 FOR THIS PURPOSE. CURRENTLY FISH ARE CAUGHT MAINLY FOR HOME CONSUMPTION AND WESTERN SAMOA HAS REQUESTED TWELVE COLD STORAGE UNITS TO MAKE POSSIBLE A GOOD-SIZED FISH MARKET. GOJ IS STUDYING THIS REQUEST.

7. WESTERN SAMOA FINANCE MINISTER SHOWED INTEREST IN OBTAINING A GOJ LOAN FOR AIRPORT (AND THUS TOURIST TRADE) EXPANSION BUT SEZAKI HAD NO INDICATION WHETHER WESTERN SAMOA GOVERNMENT WOULD MAKE FORMAL REQUEST. SEZAKI ADDED THAT FIFTEEN GOJ YOUTH VOLUNTEERS ARE NOW WORKING IN WESTERN SAMOA TO IDENTIFY POSSIBLE AREAS OF FUTURE TECHNICAL COOPERATION. BECAUSE MOST REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE WERE VAGUE (E.G. KIND OF COLD STORAGE UNIT WAS NOT SPECIFIED) GOJ PLANS SEND PLANNING ADVISER TO WESTERN SAMOA TO WORK WITH LATTER'S GOVERNMENT ON FUTURE REQUESTS.

8. VISIT TO FIJI, LAST STOP, WAS FOR PURPOSE OF RESPONDING TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REQUESTS FOR HELP IN DEVELOPING COASTAL FISHERY INDUSTRY AND MECHANIZING RICE CULTURE. GOJ NOW IN PROCESS SELECTING ON EXPERT TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN EACH FIELD.

9. FIJI AUTHORITIES MADE TWO GRANT REQUESTS. ONE IS FOR A SKIPJACK TRAINING VESSEL AND THE OTHER IS FOR FERTILIZER. AS GENERAL PRINCIPLE GOJ PROVIDES GRANT ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES WITH ANNUAL PER CAPITA INCOME OF DOLS 375 AND FIJI ANNUAL PCI IS DOLS 900. PROSPECTS FOR TRAINING BOAT GRANT ARE THEREFORE NOT BRIGHT. FERTILIZER MIGHT HOWEVER BE PROVIDED. IF SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES TOGETHER UNABLE ABSORB FY 1977 GRANT OF ABOUT DOLS 20,000,000 ALLOTTED TO FERTILIZER AND AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY,

SURPLUS WILL BECOME AVAILABLE FOR USE ELSEWHERE.

10. MISSION RECEIVED REQUEST FOR TWO TEACHERS FOR TECHNICAL TRAINING SCHOOL ON FIJI, ONE FOR ENGINE MECHANICS AND ONE FOR NAVIGATION. SEZAKI EXPRESSED UNCERTAINTY WHETHER APPROPRIATE EXPERTS WITH ENGLISH LANGUAGE CAPABILITY WOULD BE AVAILABLE IN JAPAN.

11. MISSION MEMBERS VISITED OFFICE OF SOUTH PACIFIC COOPERATION BUREAU IN SUVA. OFFICIALS OF THIS ORGANIZATION, IN WHICH THIRTEEN COUNTRIES OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC ARE REPRESENTED INCLUDING AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND, EXPRESSED INTEREST IN JAPANESE ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION. GIVEN PRECEDENT OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO ASEAN COUNTRIES, GOJ BELIEVES IT COULD HELP SOUTH PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION BUREAU BUT IT DOES NOT YET KNOW ENOUGH EITHER ABOUT ORGANIZATION OR ABOUT POSSIBLE SPECIFIC PROJECTS TO HAVE CLEAR IDEA OF HOW IT MIGHT BE USEFUL.

13. SEZAKI SAID THAT PROSPECTS FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT HARDLY EXIST IN THESE FOUR REMOTE PLACES WITH FEWER THAN A MILLION INHABITANTS. LIKewise, PROSPECTS FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ARE SLIGHT. FISHERIES APPEAR TO BE LONE PROMISING FIELD.

14. SEZAKI SAID THAT WHENEVER U.S. AID WAS MENTIONED DURING HIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STOPS HIS INTERLOCUTORS EXPLAINED THAT THEY WOULD LIKE DIRECT U.S. AID BUT THAT THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES GOT LITTLE OF THIS EXCEPT IN THE FORM OF ACTION VOLUNTEERS, BECAUSE U.S. AID PROGRAMS IN THE PACIFIC AREA ORDINARILY WERE CHANNELED THROUGH MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS.  
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## Message Attributes

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